HF Happenings 823

IARU Region 1 - December 2018 YOTA Month

December is YOTA Month when several youngsters from IARU Region 1 Member Countries will become active on the air with YOTA as suffix in the call signs. From Saturday 1 December to Monday 31 December 2018, young amateurs in their teens and early 20s will attempt to make many contacts worldwide with each other during this international event. This event is aimed at our young generation and is a golden opportunity for clubs to get youngsters who are interested in or want to find out more about Amateur Radio on the air.

It is not a formal contest, but a way to get our current young amateurs on the air contacting hundreds of other youngsters around the world. The SARL has registered a special call sign ZS9YOTA on the IARU Region 1 website as an educational call sign for use by clubs and individuals during December. To reserve a slot to use the ZS9YOTA callsign on a daily basis or for information please contact Noel, ZR6DX via e-mail at zr6dx@iafrica.com or alternatively to Nico, ZS6QL at zs6ql@mweb.co.za. The schedule and applicable rules will be available on the SARL website.

All radio amateurs are welcome to enjoy a QSO with the youngsters, be aware that some of them are new to the radio hobby, while others are more experienced. Looking forward to hearing our younger generation on the air during December!

November
28 – Stellenbosch Street Soirees
30 to 2 Dec – Cape Town Festival of Beer, Green point

December
1 – World Aids Day; start of YOTA December
1 and 2 - Linden Market, Johannesburg
2 to 10 – Hanukkah
3 - International Day for People with Disabilities
7 - International Civil Aviation Day
8 and 9 - ARRL 10 metre contest
10 – Closing date for Newbie logs; International Human Rights Day
11 – International Mountain Day
12 – all schools close
12 to 22 – Ek Lief Krismis Market, George
14 to 16 – Gabrielskloof Favourite Things Market, Overberg
14 to 23 – Parys Christmas Market, Parys
14 to 30 Trail of Lights, Durban
16 – Day of Reconciliation; Groote Post Christmas Market, Darling
17 – Public Holiday
21 - Sumer Solstice
21 and 22 - Full Moon Hike, Stellenbosch
25 - Christmas Day
26 - Day of Goodwill/Family Day; the closing date for the January 2019 Radio ZS
29 and 30 - Unplugged62 Festival, Barrydale
31 - Festival of Lights, Nieu-Bethesda; The end of the 2018 YOTA Month, the 2018 CQ DX Marathon and the ARRL Grid Chase. **Destroy your copy of the 2018 Contest Manual!**

The Youngsters on The Air group will be active again during the entire month of December. The idea for this event is to show the amateur radio hobby to youth and to encourage youngsters to be active on the ham radio waves. Announced participating stations include 4O18YOTA, 5H3YOTA, 6V1YOTA, 9A18YOTA, AO1YOTA, AO5YOTA, AP3YOTA, DF0YOTA, EG2YOTA, ET3AA, GB18YOTA, HA6YOTA, HB9YOTA, HG0YOTA, II3YOTA, II5YOTA, LY5YOTA, OE0YOTA, OH2YOTA, OL18YOTA, OM18YOTA, ON4YOTA, PA6YOTA, PD6YOTA, R18YOTA, SH9YOTA, TF3YOTA, TM18YOTA, WK1DS/YOTA, YT18YOTA, YU18YOTA, Z30YOTA, Z39YOTA, Z60YOTA, ZL6YOTA and ZS9YOTA.

QSLs via Club Log's OQRS or direct to M0SDV. Information on the event and the awards can be found at https://events.ham-yota.com/

Two New SOTA Associations

From 1 December 2018, Namibia with 2 719 summits and the Prince Edward and Marion Islands with 2 summits have joined the SOTA programme.

IOTA News

Record-holders who have made IOTA contacts in an IOTA contest after 2003, can claim credit for them without submitting QSLs, provided that the contact details match. Go to https://iota-world.org/, log in, select "Add Contest QSOs" under the "My IOTA" tab, and then upload your .cbr or .log file(s). The logs for the IOTA Contest 2018 island stations have now been added to the IOTA database and are available for QSO matching.

IOTA Management is "waiting for further information from 9M2SDX, B4/BY1AA, B4/BY1OK, BD4SDX, BD7PCA, BG5BAA, BG5BRT, BH4BQI, BY7KP, HS5NMF, J49A and YB9QP before these activations can be accepted".

WSJT-X 2.0

A fifth candidate release ("RC5") of WSJT-X 2.0 has been available for download and use by beta testers since 26 November. The "Quick-Start Guide to WSJT-X 2.0" has been updated, and must be read thoroughly before using RC5 http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Quick_Start_WSJT-X_2.0.pdf

"RC5 is stable, works well, and fixes the known problems in RC4. It is likely that the General Availability (GA) release of WSJT-X 2.0, scheduled for 10 December, will be nearly identical to RC5. We recommend using RC5 (and therefore the v2.0 FT8 protocol) in the conventional FT8 sub-bands at audio TX frequencies 2000 Hz and higher. Inevitably the necessary transition from v1.x to v2.0 protocols for FT8 and MSK144 will cause some confusion and cross-protocol interference. Users of v1.9.1 and earlier are unable to decode transmissions from users of RC4 and
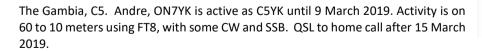later, and vice-versa.

As more users upgrade their software to WSJT-X 2.0 - and particularly after the General Availability (GA) release on 10 December - the new protocol should start to dominate the conventional FT8 sub-bands. As soon as possible after 10 December, and certainly by 1 January 2019, everyone should be using WSJT-X 2.0 or a compatible v2.0 version of derivative programs such as JTDX or MSHV".

Download links for RC5 on Windows, Linux, and macOS can be found on the WSJT-X web page http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html.

African DX

Contacts with stations on the African continent count towards the SARL's All Africa Award (www.sarl.org.za/public/awards/awards.asp)

The Gambia, C5. Andre, ON7YK is active as C5YK until 9 March 2019. Activity is on 60 to 10 meters using FT8, with some CW and SSB. QSL to home call after 15 March 2019.

Burkina Faso, XT. Al, F8FUA will be active as XT2BR from Ouagadougou from 2 to 11 December. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL to home call.

Gabon, TR. Roland, F8EN, who has just turned 90, will be active again as TR8CR from Gabon starting on 16 December for three months. He will operate CW and SSB on 40 to 17 m, maybe also on 80 m. QSL via F6AJA, direct or bureau; see http://LesNouvellesDX.fr/voirlogs.php for log search.

Namibia, V5 and Botswana, A2. Carl, ZS1KM is planning an "Overland/DX trip" and will be travelling through Namibia to Botswana between mid-December and mid-January 2019. Along the way he will be active as V51KM and A25KM on 80, 40 and 20 metres mainly SSB with some digital.

African Islands
IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Senegal, 6W. The annual 6V1A expedition to the island of Goree (AF-045) will be conducted between 7 to 9 December. Tafa, 6W1KI, Ouzin, 6W1PZ, Jul, 6W1QL, John, 6W7JX and others will operate SSB and CW on various bands with two stations. PayPal 6v1a.aras@gmail.com for a direct QSL.

Sierra Leone, 9L. The website for the 9 to 21 January 2019 9LY1JM DXpedition to Banana Island (AF-037), Sierra Leone is now under construction at https://9l2019dx.wordpress.com/. The team so far includes Andreas, DL3GA, Jean-Luc, F1ULQ, Patrick, F2DX, Frank, F4AJQ, Jimi, F4DLM, Frank, F5TVG, Herman, ON4QX and Eric, ON7RN. Plans are for 12 operators to be active on 160-10 metres CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8 (Fox and Hound mode) with four stations. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, LoTW or via F5GSJ (direct or bureau).

Contest Calendar
This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 26 November to 3 December 2018

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 November
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 2 December 2018
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 28 November
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 29 November 2018
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 November
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 30 November 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 29 November
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 1 December 2018
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 28 November
Geographic Focus: Europe
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unconnected - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km (10 pts max); multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 28 November 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/which-contest-ukeicc-80 m-contests-rules

RSGB 80 m Autumn Series, CW

20:00 - 21:30 UTC 29 November
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: 100 W; 10 W
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 2 December 2018
Upload log at: www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/rautumn.shtml

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 30 November
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 December 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 30 November
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 1 December 2018
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 November
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW

Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 December 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

ARRL 160-Meter Contest
22:00 UTC 30 November to 16:00 UTC 2 December
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unlimited - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - low or high
Max operating hours: 42 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE Station: 5 points per DX QSO
Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)
Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 9 December 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org
Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: www.arrl.org/160-meter

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint
06:00 - 06:29 UTC and 06:30 - 06:59 UTC and 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 1 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)
Work stations: Once per band per period
QSO Points: 1 point per km
Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points
Submit logs by: 8 December 2018

E-mail logs to: ru-qrp-club@mail.ru
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng

YARC QSO Party
14:00 UTC 1 December to 02:59 UTC 2 December
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, SSB, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 222, 432
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi - low or high
Max power: HP: >200 watts; LP: 200 watts; QRP: 15 watts
Exchange: age and state, province, MX or DX
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per digital QSO; 2 points per CW QSO; 3 points per phone QSO
Multipliers: Each state/province/1 DX once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15:59 UTC 7 December 2018
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Upload log at: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (see rules)
Find rules at: https://yarc.world/events/contests/2018/09/18/winter-qso-party-2018/

TOPS Activity Contest
16:00 UTC 1 December to 15:59 UTC 2 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single
Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, serial no and Club Abbreviation; non-Members: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point; QSO with own continent or other continents: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points
Multipliers: Each prefix outside of entrant's country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 9 December 2018
E-mail logs to: contest@procwclub.ro
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
www.procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html

FT8 Roundup
18:00 UTC 1 December to 23:59 UTC 2 December
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: FT8
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Unlimited; Multi-Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: W: RST and state; VE: RST and province/territory; non-W/VE: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each US state (excluding KH6/KL7) and DC once; Each VE province/territory once; Each DXCC country (excluding W/VE) once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 9 December 2018
E-mail logs to: ft8-ru@cqww.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.rttycontesting.com/ft8-roundup/rules/

EPC Ukraine DX Contest
20:00 UTC 1 December to 19:59 UTC 2 December

Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: BPSK63
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - 12 hour or 24 hour; Single Op Low Band; Single Op High Band; Multi-Single
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Ukraine: RSQ and Ukr Admin Region; non-Ukraine: RSQ and QSO No.
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different country; 5 points per QSO with different continent; non-Ukraine: 10 points per QSO with Ukrainian station
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each Ukrainian administrative region once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 16 December 2018
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://vinradio.ho.ua/page184.html

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 5 December
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 December
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 5 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 6 December
QRP ARCI Topband Sprint, 00:00 - 03:00 UTC 6 December
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 6 December
SKCC Sprint Europe, 20:00 - 22:00 UTC 6 December
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 7 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 7 December
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 7 December
ARRL 10-Meter Contest, 00:00 UTC 8 December to 24:00 UTC 9 December
PODXS 070 Club Triple Play Low Band Sprint, 00:00 UTC 8 December to 23:59 UTC 10 December
TRC Digi Contest, 06:00 UTC 8 December to 18:00 UTC 9 December
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 8 December to 24:00 UTC 9 December
International Naval Contest, 16:00 UTC 8 December to 15:59 UTC 9 December
QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint, 20:00 - 23:00 UTC 9 December
CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run, 21:00 - 22:59 UTC 9 December
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 10 December

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter